

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: NATO, OVIP (SECDEF BROWN)  
SUBJECT: ARRIVAL STATEMENT OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE HAROLD BROWN

FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF STATEMENT MADE BY  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, HAROLD D. BROWN, UPON ARRIVING AT  
BRUSSELS' AIRPORT, TOGETHER WITH QUESTIONS POSED BY THE  
PRESS AND THE SECRETARY'S REPLIES:

BEGIN TRANSCRIPT.

THE SECRETARY: GOOD AFTERNOON LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. WE  
ARRIVED HERE FROM WASHINGTON VIA GERMANY, WHERE WE SPENT AN  
INTERESTING DAY UP UNTIL NOW MEETING WITH US TROOPS ENGAGED  
IN TANK AND ARTILLERY TRAINING AT GRAFENWOEHR. I FOUND THE  
MORALE OF THE TROOPS GOOD AND THEIR CAPABILITIES IMPRESSIVE.  
YOU MAY KNOW THAT THIS IS MY FIRST TRIP ABROAD SINCE BECOMING  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE IN JANUARY, AND I THINK IT'S QUITE  
APPROPRIATE THAT THIS FIRST TRIP HAVE AS ITS OCCASION AN  
IMPORTANT MEETING OF ALLIED DEFENSE MINISTERS. THE PRINCIPAL  
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PURPOSE OF TOMORROW'S MEETING OF THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE  
IS TO DEAL WITH NATO AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING, BUT I ESPECIALLY  
LOOK FORWARD IN ADDITION TO MEETING WITH DR. JOSEPH LUNS, THE  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO, AND WITH MY MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUES.  
I WANT TO SAY THAT DURING MY TERM AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MY  
INTENTION, AS I HAVE INDICATED A NUMBER OF TIMES PUBLICLY AND  
IN CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY, IS TO ACCORD A HIGH PRIORITY TO  
NATO DEFENSE. THAT INTENTION IS ALREADY REFLECTED IN THE  
BUDGET WHICH LAST MONTH PRESIDENT'S BUDGET CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES

AMERICA'S STRONG COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE COMBAT READINESS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR GENERAL PURPOSE MILITARY FORCES AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO ENHANCING OUR ABILITY RAPIDLY TO REINFORCE NATO FORCES. WITH RESPECT TO NATO AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING, I THINK WE ARE QUITE CLOSE TO AGREEMENT ON THE TERMS OF AN ALLIED PROGRAM. I HOPE THAT WHEN WE CONCLUDE OUR MEETING AT NATO HEADQUARTERS TOMORROW ALL THE MINISTERS PRESENT WILL BE IN A POSITION TO ENDORSE THE PROGRAM PERSONALLY AND TO TAKE IT BACK TO THEIR CAPITALS FOR APPROVAL THROUGH THEIR INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL PROCESSES.

I HAVE TIME FOR JUST A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS.

Q. DO YOU ANTICIPATE ANY RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF GERMANY TO GO ALONG WITH THE COSTLY AWACS PROGRAM?

THE SECRETARY: WELL IT'S A COMPLICATED QUESTION. I SPENT TWO DAYS WITH DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER IN WASHINGTON LAST WEEK DISCUSSING THE WHOLE VARIETY OF PROGRAMS IN WHICH THE US AND GERMANY ARE PLANNING TO COOPERATE WITHIN NATO AND THIS WAS ONE OF THEM. THE AWACS IS AN EXPENSIVE PROGRAM. IT'S ALSO-- I'M CONVINCED, AND ALTHOUGH MINISTER LEBER REALLY MUST SPEAK FOR HIMSELF I THINK HE IS CONVINCED, THE ALLIANCE NEEDS ((AWACS)). WORKING OUT THE DETAILS OF PARTICIPATION HAS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED, AND AS I INDICATED IN MY STATEMENT EACH NATION HAS TO APPROVE THEM BY ITS OWN NATIONAL PROCESSES. WHAT I WOULD HOPE IS THAT AT TOMORROW'S MEETING THERE WILL BE ENOUGH OF A CONSENSUS AND ENOUGH DETAIL SO THAT MINISTERS WILL BE SATISFIED THAT THEY CAN APPROVE IT, APPROVE THE PROGRAM AND INDICATE THEIR INTENTIONS TO PROCEED WITH THEIR CABINETS AND PARLIAMENTS OR WHAT-

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EVER THE INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL PROCESSES MAY BE.

Q. DO YOU INTEND TO TAKE UP ANY OTHER SUBJECTS?

THE SECRETARY: I'M NOT THE ONE WHO DETERMINES THE AGENDA. I BELIEVE THAT THE NATO AEW IS THE PRINCIPAL REASON THAT THERE IS A MEETING AT THIS TIME BUT I WOULD NOT AT ALL BE SURPRISED IF ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS WERE BROUGHT UP FOR DISCUSSION. I HAVE NO PARTICULAR AGENDA MYSELF. I AM A NEW BOY AND I THINK I HAVE TO BE APPROPRIATELY RESTRAINED.

Q. ARE YOU HAVING ANY BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH ANY OF THE OTHER MINISTERS?

THE SECRETARY: I EXPECT I WILL MEET WITH MANY OF THE OTHER MINISTERS AT ONE POINT OR ANOTHER DURING THE NEXT DAY AND A HALF.

Q. INDIVIDUALLY?

THE SECRETARY: INDIVIDUALLY; THE DETAILS AREN'T SET YET. I DON'T KNOW WHO IS GOING TO BE HERE WHEN AND I HAVE BEEN IN THE FIELD ALL DAY SO I HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY MORE RECENT DATA, BUT I AM SURE I WILL HAVE SOME INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS. AND I HOPE I WILL HAVE MORE TO TELL YOU WHEN I FINISH TOMORROW. THANK YOU.

END TRANSCRIPT STRAUSSZ-HUPE

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